What's in a Grade?

Your grades are important. In today's world, those powerful little letters of evaluation on your transcript are critical keys to your life's earning potential, your future employment options and your self image.

Yet, when it comes to better grades, the world is full of skeptics ("You can't do it"), sterile advice ("Just study harder"), and misconceptions about education ("Once a 'C' student, always a 'C' student").

As an alternative to such negative thinking, consider this variation of what Henry Ford once said. "If you think you can do well in school, you're right. If you *don't* think you can do well in school, you're still right."

Start Thinking Right

The purpose of this course is to help you to start thinking right. To change your attitude, to increase your self confidence, and to teach you how to get better grades – with less effort, less pressure and less anxiety.

It is possible!

In 1981, one of my sons, a high school senior, applied for admission to Arizona State University. Turned down because of poor grades, he was finally *conditionally* accepted for the fall term. The following year, my second son also applied to ASU – and was likewise initially turned away. His ACT score was 11; ASU required a minimum score of 21.

In reviewing their high school records and entrance exams, it appeared that their chances of doing exceptionally well in college were almost nonexistent. Yet, to everyone's surprise, both students made the Dean's list – one earning a 4.0 average in his first semester and the other missing straight A's by only one course!

How did they do it?

Studying Smart vs. Studying Hard

These terms may seem synonymous, but they are not. Let's say two people are given the task of cutting down a tree. To accomplish the challenge, one is handed a sledge hammer and the other an ax. The person with the sledge hammer is certainly going to work hard. But the person with the ax will be working smart.

From now on, you're going to study smart – learning to use the right tools to get better grades.